Sending of Secretaries of Government to districts to announce the decisions of Government.

* 182 Q.—SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) on what occasions previous to 23rd October 1948, Secretaries of Government were sent to districts to announce decisions and policies of Government; and

(b) if on no previous occasion it has happened, why the above course was adopted, when the Joint Secretary was sent to Tanjore to announce the decision of the Government *re* Agrarian Labour dispute on the 23rd October 1948?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" (a) All decisions of the Government are communicated by Secretaries to the Government, Secretaries who are declared to be Presidency Touring Officers, e.g., the present Joint Secretary and his predecessor, have both had to announce and explain the decisions of the Government in districts on many occasions.

" (b) Does not arise."

[* 183 Q.—The question was not put.]

Industries owned and managed by European firms.

* 184 Q.—SRI P. VIRABHADRASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(a) the industries in the Province that are owned and managed by European firms with a major portion of European capital; and

(b) whether the Government propose to purchase these mills?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" (a) The Government do not have full information.

" (b) No, Sir."

* 185 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO:—" In view of the long answer, Sir, which the Hon. the Minister has laid on the table will it be convenient, Sir, to take up this question the next day."

MR. PRESIDENT:—" The question will be put the next day."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY.

MR. PRESIDENT:—" I have to announce to the House that
11-15 a.m. messages have been received from the Hon. the Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly transmitting copies of the following Bills as passed by the Assembly:—

(1) On 20th January 1949—The Madras City Police and Gaming (Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 10 of 1948); the

22nd January 1949] [Mr. President]

Madras Commercial Crops Markets (Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 1 of 1948); the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1949 and the Madras Agriculturists Relief (Amendment) Bill, 1949 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1949).

'(2) On 21st January 1949—The Madras Municipal and Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, 1948 (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1949) and signed by him for the concurrence of the Council.' "

III.—SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Is it agreed that we are meeting on the 25th afternoon? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" May I know when we are meeting again? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" We are meeting on the 25th afternoon, and we will have to go on for two days. I give this information to hon. Members who would like to reserve berths in trains."

IV.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR EXCESS EXPENDITURE IN 1945-46.

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I think it is quite in order and quite necessary that there should be a demand for excess of expenditure, although it is excess of expenditure incurred in 1945–46, about four years ago. Sir, I am not quite sure whether the Assembly would pass this demand, but as far as this Council is concerned, we are only discussing the demand. The report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of the Province of Madras for the year 1945–46 reveals a very regrettable state of affairs. In introducing these demands, I did not hear the Hon. Minister or refer to the regrettable state of affairs revealed by this report. I shall not give many instances, but I am anxious, Sir, to know whether this regrettable state of affairs continue even to-day. I want to know whether the conditions that existed in 1945–46 and thereafter continue even to-day in Government departments. Sir, this report gives us an insight into the working of Government departments, which when pointed out, this House will find to be regrettable and deplorable. Sir, at page 9 of the report it is said—

'The Accountant-General has pointed out that in respect of the payments made during the year 1944–45 in connection with the State Trading Schemes administered by the Director of Agriculture, vouchers and payees' receipts for amounts aggregating to Rs. 7,12,798 still remain to be submitted to audit.'

Sir, how are the Government departments working at present? Have the Government taken any steps to understand and get into order the regrettable feature of the working of the Agriculture department in 1944–45 and for some years later? Receipts amounting to 7 lakhs of rupees have still to be submitted to audit. It is not one or two rupees."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The accounts relate to 1944–45."